

**From:** mat keller [mailto:mkel@sonic.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 29, 2007 7:17 AM  
**To:** Melissa Miller-Henson  
**Subject:** Comments on NCCRSR draft proposals and the 11/28 meeting

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative  
c/o California Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

I have studied the maps and narratives of the initial proposals from the California MPLA Central Coast Project, and make the following comments.

Emerald Work Group (Options A and B) and Turquoise Work Group (Options A and B) propose closing the delta area at the south end of the bay to duck hunting. I hold that this would be an unnecessary reduction in legitimate recreational resources of the bay.

- Migratory waterfowl hunting is closely regulated by federal and state law to prevent over-harvesting. The regulations set each year take into account breeding success the preceding spring and summer and population estimates, and seasons and limits for each species are set accordingly. State and federal refuges have been established where needed to provide sanctuary and to preserve breeding and wintering habitat. If a refuge area in the south portion of Tomales Bay is needed, the recommendation should come from state and federal waterfowl biologists and the state Fish and Game Commission.

- If we use the Science Advisory Team's definition, "If this is allowed, how would the environment look different", I cannot see any negative impact from duck hunting.

- Currently the Point Reyes National Seashore has closed all of the bay to hunting except the south portion in question and an area between Nick's Cove and Tom Point. While the area in question is not heavily hunted, access to waterfowl hunting in west Marin County is very limited. Already Bolinas Lagoon and Drakes Estero/ Estero de Limantour are closed by the National Seashore. Growing up in Inverness my father introduced me to duck hunting in the south end of the bay, and last year I had the privilege of taking one of my grandsons hunting there. While those who are against hunting as a sport won't shed a tear over the loss of the small portion of the bay to duck hunters, local hunters have used this area historically and their recreation should not be taken away without sound biological reason.

- The BRTF wants clear species by species reasons for the need for any special closures. The area in question is a wintering area for several species of duck. Baldpate feed on green vegetation along the pickleweed, occasionally gadwall and shovelers may be seen feeding on invertebrates. One sees mallard and pintail occasionally. Diving ducks, mostly scaup, bufflehead, goldeneye, ruddys and scoters, dive for food in the substrate. The "pond ducks" have many alternate areas to feed and rest in the bay and around Marine County, and the diving ducks feed in almost all of the bay.

2. At the November 28 meeting, Fish and Game said that multiple designations within a MPA were hard to enforce. But surely this does not apply to different types of take? For example, there should be no problem distinguishing between people fishing, crabbing, commercial urchin diving, and sport abalone diving.

Mat Keller  
P. O. Box 636  
Occidental, CA 95465